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The second Paper read consisted of—

Two despatches from Dr. Baikie to Earl Russell, dated 25th July, 1862, regretting that ill health, from which, however, he had recovered, prevented his sending detailed accounts of several most interesting and, he believed, valuable journeys he had made in the kingdom of Kano, from the capital of which he wrote. He had prepared eight new vocabularies, and had visited about 30 different tribes. He had satisfactorily established the existence of the watershed between the Tchadda and the Quorra, and had carefully examined the little-known south-east portion of Kano due south of Lake Tchad. Some unimportant traces of Dr. Vogel and Serjeant Maguire had been discovered; and a private letter, also forwarded to the President, dated 4th August, stated his intention of returning to the coast. After giving a graphic account of life at Kano, "where," he writes, "I every day enjoy nothing less than bread-and-butter for breakfast, wheat rolls being daily hawked about or sold in the market, while fresh butter is a daily article: it is the nearest approach to home that I have had for a long time,"—Dr. Baikie spoke of the kingdom of Kano, to reach which had been his object for more than two years, as "the finest and best cultivated [country] I have seen." The rainy season of 1862 had been very light.

The PRESIDENT said Dr. Baikie was well worthy of their warmest encomiums. He had been a long time in the country, and they would now be anxious to hear that he had reached the ultimate point of his destination, and had there obtained the papers of Corporal M'Guire and some other papers of great importance to geographers.

3. *Letters from the late Dr. Vogel to his Mother and others.*

(A.) *Dated Aschenumma, Tiboo, 26th Nov. 1853.*

This letter describes the writer's painful journey of 15 days through sand from Mourzouk to the point where he then was, within 20 days' journey of Lake Tchad; after leaving which he hoped to reach Kuka by New Year's Day. The whole country he depicts as a sea of sand, with islets of palms, and bare black rocks protruding through the sand. On the 25th of November he had visited the Sultan of Tiboo, whose palace was a mud hovel, thatched with palm-leaves. Two goats and a horse assisted at the reception. The village is situate at the foot of a large steep rock, resembling the Königstein as seen from the Bastei near Dresden, which is undermined in every direction, and forms the refuge of the natives in case of attack.

(B.) *Kuka, 20th February, 1854.*

Arrived 15th January, after a long winter journey, in which several companions were prostrated by fever. The country is terribly barren in every direction for at least 4 or 5 days' journey, but may possibly be more cheerful after the rainy season. All the shrubs have strong spines. The soil is fit for cultivation to any extent, chiefly for indigo, cotton and melons, all which grow wild. Rice and wheat could be grown in great abundance (*vide* Dr. Baikie's letter, *ut suprâ*), but the former is so scarce that the king gives it away in presents. Wheat not grown at all. The slave-trade here consists chiefly in young children.

(c.) *Letter to J. K. Hinde, Esq., dated Kuka, 30th June, 1854.*

Mentions that his meteorological observations had been arrested by an attack of yellow fever, on recovering from which he accompanied what proved to be a slave-hunting expedition as far as 9° 30' N. (long. not stated), through unvisited country. Suffered great hardships, having lived for 20 days on boiled corn. Diarrhœa and small-pox ravaged the camp, carrying off 3500 out of 4000 slaves (almost exclusively women and children). Climate very unfavourable for astronomical observations.

After this paper had been read, Mr. Tinné, a relative of the Dutch ladies now travelling in Central Africa, stated that he had received letters from them dated 1st of July last, in which they announced that the whole party, having partly recovered from fever, intended to proceed towards a mountain they had heard of, called Casinka, of which there was no geographical knowledge. The country through which they had passed, south-west by west of Khartûm, was very picturesque, and the Nyam-Nyam country, to which they were bound, was said to be very fruitful. The ladies had left their boats at Lake Rek, near the head of the Bahr-el-Ghazal, and, the rainy season lasting until November, they did not expect to return to them before January or February.

The Meeting was then adjourned to the 23rd inst.

Second Meeting, November 23, 1863.

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, K.C.B., in the Chair.

PRESENTATIONS.—*Charles J. Leaf, Esq.; Captain Marshall; J. W. Walton, Esq.; G. G. Engleheart, Esq.; H. J. E. Beavan, Esq.*